Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

1. Replace the Title with the following corrected title:

AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENT COMPOSITIONS FOR A HYDROCARBON RESISTANT HOSE

2. Replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 and the first full paragraph on page 7 with the following two corrected paragraphs:

While the vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymer is typically the sole polymeric component and the primary ingredient of the composition, the vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymers of the invention may also be combined with other elastomeric polymers to provide certain desirable properties to the vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymers. Typically, such other elastomeric polymers include ethylene-vinyl ester copolymers in which the vinyl ester component is an ester of a C_2 to C_6 carboxylic acid. Preferably, the ethylene-vinyl ester copolymer is an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer. Other elastomeric polymers include chlorinated polyolefins, chlorosulfonated polyolefins, polychloroprene (CR), ethylene-acrylic rubber (AEM), alkyl acrylate copolymer (ACM), polyvinyl acetate, ethylene-propylene-diene monomer (EPDM), styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (NBR), hydrogenated acrylonitrile-butadiene rubber (HNBR), ethylene-propylene rubber (EPR), ethylene-propylene-hexadiene terpolymer, butyl rubber, cis-polybutadiene, cis-polyisoprene, polyurethane, polyamide, and the like, and mixtures thereof. Such elastomeric polymers are well known and are readily available in the rubber industry. For example, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers are commercially available from a number of manufacturers including DuPont, Millennium Petrochemicals, Nova-Borealis Compounds LLC, AT Plastics Inc., Exxon, ATO Chem., Bayer AG, and others. Suitable ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers have a vinyl acetate content greater than about 40% by weight, preferably greater than about 50% by weight and most preferably about 60 to 90% by weight vinyl acetate. Ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers available from Bayer AG under the name Levapren have been found to be particularly useful in the present invention.

Additional materials may also be employed as additives compounded into the copolymer composition for the purpose of providing desired characteristics of the composition. These

additional materials include, for example, process aids in an amount up to about 8% by weight; fillers in an amount of about 20 to 60% by weight; plasticizers in an amount up to about 15% by weight, preferably about 3 to 15% by weight; metal oxides or hydroxides in an amount up to about 8% by weight; peroxides in an amount up to about 5% by weight; coagents in an amount up to about 5% by weight; and antioxidants in an amount up to about 5% by weight. Other additives such as vulcanization accelerators commonly used in polymeric compositions for use in preparing hoses may be added in appropriate amounts to provide their desired effect.

3. Replace the third full paragraph on page 8 with the following corrected paragraph:

In accordance with a first embodiment of the invention, the vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymer composition comprises:

about 2 to 75% by weight vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymer;

~~about~~ 0 to about 75% by weight ethylene-vinyl acetate;

~~about 0.8 to 2%~~ 0 to about 8% by weight process aid selected from the group consisting of stearic acid, stearates, polyethylene, amines, oils, organic esters, organic phosphate esters and combinations thereof;

about 20 to 60% by weight filler selected from the group consisting of carbon black, silicon dioxide, fumed silica, precipitated silica, diatomaceous earth, magnesium carbonate, magnesium silicate, aluminum silicate titanium dioxide, talc, mica, aluminum sulfate, calcium sulfate, graphite, wollastonite, molybdenum disulfide, clay, calcium carbonate and combinations thereof;

about 3 to 15% by weight plasticizer selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, glycols, aldehydes, ethers, esters, ether-esters and combinations thereof;

~~about~~ 0 to about 10% by weight metal oxides and/or hydroxides selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc hydroxide, magnesium oxide, magnesium hydroxide, calcium oxide, calcium hydroxide, aluminum hydroxide and combinations thereof;

~~about~~ 0.5 to ~~2%~~ about 4% by weight peroxide selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexyne-3; 2,5-dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane; dicumyl peroxide; α,α'-bis-(t-butylperoxy)-p-diisopropylbenzene; di-t-butyl peroxide; 1,1-bis(t-butylperoxy)-3,3,3-trimethylcyclohexane; 2,4-dichlorobenzoyl peroxide; benzoyl peroxide; p-chlorobenzoyl peroxide; 4,4-bis(t-butylperoxy) valerate; and combinations thereof;

~~about~~ 0 to about 5% by weight coagent selected from the group consisting of maleimides, triallyl cyanurate, triallyl isocyanurate, diallyl terephthalate, 1,2-vinyl polybutadiene,

di- and tri-functional methacrylates, diacrylates, metal ion versions thereof and combinations thereof; and

~~about~~ 0 to ~~0.3%~~ about 3% by weight antioxidant selected from the group consisting of phenols, hydrocinnamates, hydroquinones, hydroquinolines, diphenylamines, mercaptobenzimidazoles, and combinations thereof.

4. Replace the first full paragraph on page 9 and the paragraph bridging pages 9 and 10 with the following two corrected paragraphs:

In accordance with a first preferred embodiment of the invention, the composition comprises:

about 2 to 75% by weight vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymer containing about 50 to 80% by weight vinyl acetate and about 50 to 20% by weight vinyl laurate;

about 0.2 to 0.7% by weight stearic acid;

about 23 to 38% by weight carbon black;

about 2 to 5% by weight silicon dioxide;

about 3 to 7% by weight trioctyl trimellitate;

~~about~~ 0 to about 7% by weight adipate type plasticizer;

~~about~~ 0 to about 8% by weight magnesium oxide;

about 0.1 to 0.75% by weight 1-octanedecanamine;

about 0.1 to 0.75% by weight organic phosphate ester;

about 0.5 to 4% by weight organic peroxide;

about 0.25 to 1% by weight triallyl cyanurate;

about 0.25 to 1% by weight N, N', n-phenylenedimaleimide;

about 0.25 to ~~2%~~ 3% by weight antioxidant selected from the group consisting of phenols, hydrocinnamates, diphenylamines, hydroquinones, hydroquinolines and mixtures thereof.

In accordance with a second preferred embodiment of the invention, the composition comprises:

about 5 to 30% by weight vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymer containing about 50 to 80% by weight vinyl acetate and about 50 to 20% by weight vinyl laurate;

about 20 to 50% by weight ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer containing about 50 to 80% by weight vinyl acetate and about 80 to 50% by weight ethylene;

about 0.2 to 0.7% by weight stearic acid;

about 23 to 38% by weight carbon black;

about 2 to 5% by weight silicon dioxide;

about 3 to 7% by weight trioctyl trimellitate;

~~about~~ 0 to about 7% by weight adipate type plasticizer;

~~about~~ 0 to about 8% by weight magnesium oxide;

about 0.1 to 0.75% by weight 1-octanedecanamine;

about 0.1 to 0.75% by weight organic phosphate ester;

about 0.5 to 4% by weight organic peroxide;

about 0.25 to 1% by weight triallyl cyanurate;

about 0.25 to 1% by weight N,N', n-phenylenedimaleimide;

about 0.25 to ~~2%~~ 3% by weight antioxidant selected from the group consisting of phenols, hydrocinnamates, diphenylamines, hydroquinones, hydroquinolines and mixtures thereof.